

# Challenging Patients and Situations in Mammography

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1



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2



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3

## Challenging Patients

- Patient circumstances
- Body habitus issues
- Special needs



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4

## Challenging Patients

- **Patient circumstances**
- Body habitus issues
- Special needs



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5

## Variable Patient Circumstances

- Mobility
- Limitations
- Breast size



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6

## Variable Patient Circumstances

- **Mobility**
- Limitations
- Breast size



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7

## Mobility

- Walkers
- Wheelchairs
- Scooters



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8

## Mobility

- Walkers
- **Wheelchairs**
- Scooters



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9

Turn the wheelchair at a 45-degree angle away from the IR



10



11

### Wheelchair Patients

- Remove the arms from the chair
- Get her to sit up as straight as possible in the chair
- Have her sit as far forward in the chair as possible (use pillows to “bolster” her)



12



13

### Patients with Walkers

- Assess stability
- Get her to sit up as straight as possible in the chair
- Have her sit as far forward in the chair as possible (use pillows to “bolster” her)
- Move foot pedals out of the way



14

### Reduce Fall Risk



15

Let Her Drive Herself to Where You Need Her to Be!



16

### Mobility

- When in doubt, the patient should be seated!
- Leave her in her wheelchair
- Be very cautious of stools with wheels
- Consider patient stability



17

### Mobility

- Override automatic compression release
- Let them hang on
- Get assistance
- Accurately assess stability



18

## Assessing Stability

Ask them if they do things in their "real life" that requires similar ability:

- "Can you get in and out of bed on your own?"
- "Do you get to the bathroom without help?"



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19

## Don't Just Ask: "Can you stand?"

Mammography requires:

- Balance
- Stability
- ROM



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20

## Variable Patient Circumstances

- Mobility
- **Limitations**
- Breast size



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21

## Limitations

- Limited ROM - neck, shoulder, arm, etc.
- Full or partial paralysis



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22

## Limited ROM: Full or Partial Paralysis

- Mostly does not affect CC
- If you can't do a MLO... do a LM or ML
- For visualization of UOQ, do slightly angled AT



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23

## Variable Patient Circumstances

- Mobility
- Limitations
- **Breast size**



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24

## Breast Size

- Extremely large
- Extremely small



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25

## Extremely Large Breasts



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26

## Extremely Large Breasts: Challenges

- Volume of breast tissue
- Weight of the breast
- Limited size of IR
- Increased probability of stretching/tearing of the skin (especially in IMF)
- Protruding abdomen



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27

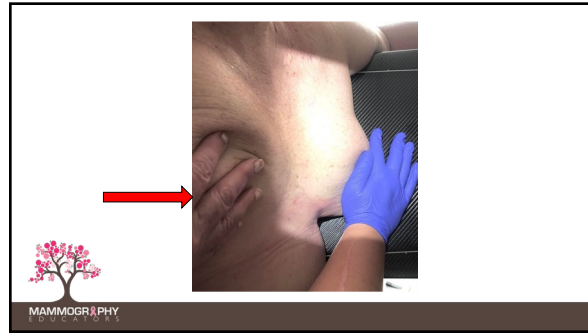
## Extremely Large Breasts: Tips

- Perform a high and low MLO, if needed
- Do an anterior compression view, if needed
- To help increase visibility of the IMF, have the patient lift and flatten her contralateral breast



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28



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29

## Extremely Large Breasts: Tips

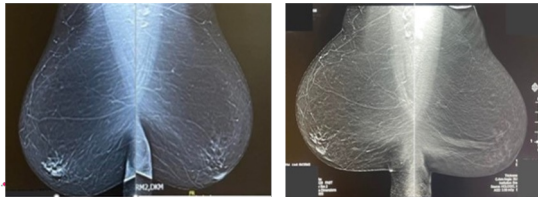
- Hold the breast up higher than you think you need
- Make sure it is held up *and* out
- **Don't let go** until compression is complete



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30

## Holding the Breast in the Up and Out Position Until Compression is Complete



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31

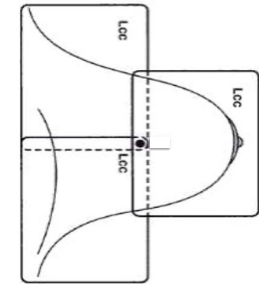
## Extremely Large Breasts: Challenges

- Biggest challenge is that multiple images have to be used and then "piece" them together, making sure that breast tissue was not "missed".
- "Mosaic" or "tile" the breast in segments
  - Use "marker" to designate overlap



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32



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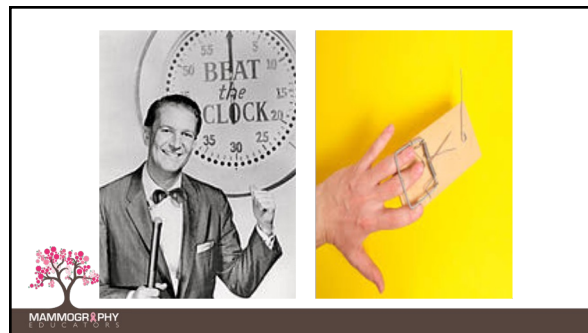
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## Extremely Small Breasts



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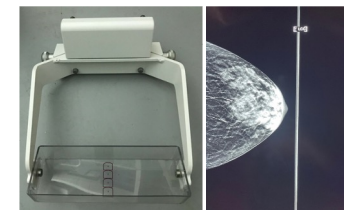
34



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35

## Use the Half (Implant) Paddle



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## Position From Behind the Patient

- Use the implant displacement techniques
- Position from behind the patient\*
- Have the patient seated

\* If positioning from behind the patient, it is imperative that you explain the process to assure her comfort level.



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37



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38

## Challenging Patients

- Patient circumstances
- **Body habitus issues**
- Special needs



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39

## Body Habitus Issues

- Pectus carinatum
- Pectus excavatum
- Kyphosis
- Lordosis
- Scoliosis



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40

## Body Habitus Issues

- **Pectus carinatum**
- Pectus excavatum
- Kyphosis
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- Scoliosis



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41

## Pectus Carinatum

- Also called **pigeon chest**
- A deformity of the chest characterized by a protrusion of the sternum and ribs
- More common in males than females (4:1 ratio)

*Hint: Carrions (birds that eat meat)*



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42

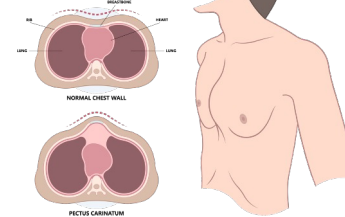
## Carrions



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43

## PECTUS CARINATUM



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44



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45

## Body Habitus Issues

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- **Pectus excavatum**
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46

## Pectus Excavatum

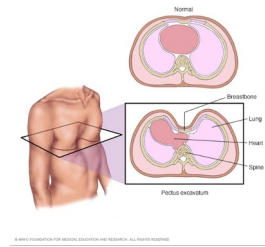
- Also called **funnel chest**
- A deformity of the chest characterized by an indentation of the sternum accompanied by a protrusion of the ribs
- More common in males than females (3:1 ratio)

Hint: Excavate, cave



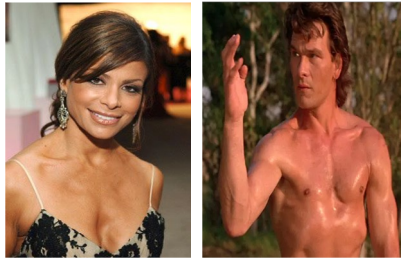
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47



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48



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49

## Pectus Carinatum / Pectus Excavatum

- Try standard views
- "Chevron" the CCs: XCCL and CV, as needed
- LM as additional view (slightly angle the top of the IR away from breast being imaged, if needed)



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50

## Body Habitus Issues

- Pectus carinatum
- Pectus excavatum
- **Kyphosis**
- **Lordosis**
- **Scoliosis**



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51

## Conditions of the Spine

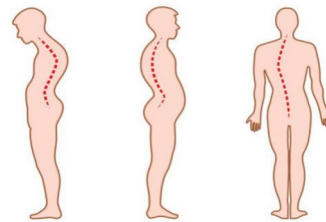
- Kyphosis: Curvature of the thoracic spine
- Lordosis: Curvature of the lumbar spine
- Scoliosis: Lateral curvature of the spine



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52

## Kyphosis Lordosis Scoliosis



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53

## Body Habitus Issues

- Pectus carinatum
- Pectus excavatum
- **Kyphosis**
- **Lordosis**
- Scoliosis




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54

### Positioning for Patients with Kyphosis/Lordosis

Attempt the standard views first, then add views as needed:

- “Lordotic” CC
- LM
- Use tips recommended for pectus issues (angled LM, “chevroned” CCs)




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### Body Habitus Issues

- Pectus carinatum
- Pectus excavatum
- Kyphosis
- Lordosis
- **Scoliosis**



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### Scoliosis





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### Scoliosis

- CCs should not be affected
- Two different degrees of angulation for the MLOs may be needed




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### KISS\*

**K.I.S.S**

*Keep It Simple Sister!*




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### Keep It Simple Sister!



- I attempt the standard views first
- Get “creative” as needed
- I rarely do a FB
- I never do a SIO
- I never do an LMO



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### My Favorite Go-To View?!





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61

### Challenging Patients

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62

### Special Needs

- Alzheimer's
- Dementia
- Overly medicated
- Elderly, infirm
- Confused
- Developmentally disabled



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## Special Needs

- Seek assistance of caretaker
- Let them stay in the room
- Speak slowly and clearly
- Use terminology they can understand
- Find solutions for recurring problems



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64

## Special Needs

- Alzheimer's
- Dementia
- Overly medicated
- Elderly, infirm
- Confused
- **Developmentally disabled**



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65

## Special Needs



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66

**DO YOUR BEST.....**



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67

## No Matter the Limitations...

Document... Document... Document!

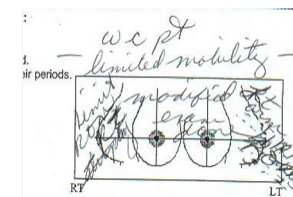
- Use appropriate terminology
- Keep it concise
- Be consistent



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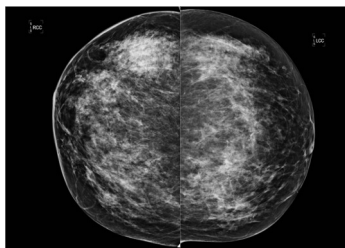
68

## What NOT To Do



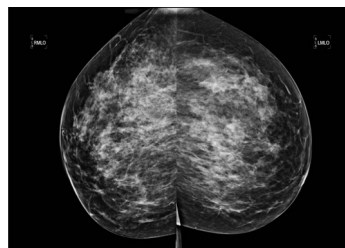
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70



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71

## No Magic Bullet



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72

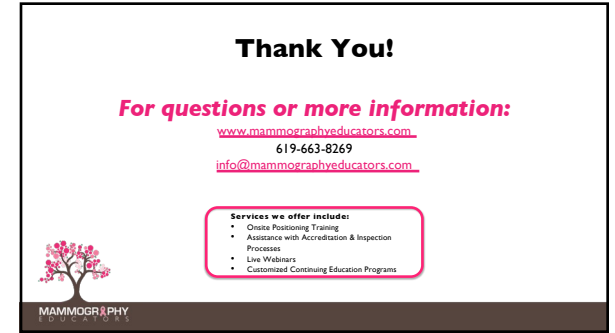




73



74



75